

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A feed additive composition for ruminants which has a biologically active substance coated with a coating composition,

wherein the coating composition comprises:

at least one protective material selected from the group consisting of a hardened animal fat, a hardened vegetable oil, a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 12 to 22 carbon atoms, a fatty acid ester, and a wax group;

lecithin; and

at least one preservative selected from a propionic acid or a salt thereof, a sorbic acid or a salt thereof, a benzoic acid or a salt thereof, a dehydroacetic acid or a salt thereof, parahydroxybenzoic acid esters, an imazalil, a thiabendazole, an orthophenyl phenol, an orthophenyl phenol sodium, and a diphenyl, and

wherein the preservative is dispersed only in the vicinity of the surface of the feed additive coating composition which coats the biologically active substance.

2. (Original) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein a content of the preservative is in a range of from 0.01 to 2.0% by weight.

3. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein the preservative is a propionic acid or a salt thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein the biologically active substance contains at least a lysine hydrochloride.

5. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein the protective material contains at least a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein the linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 12 to 22 carbon atoms is a stearic acid.

7. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein a mean particle size of the biologically active substance is in a range of from 1 to 150 μm .

8. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein a content of the lecithin is in a range of from 0.1 to 10.0% by weight.

9. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein a content of the biologically active substance is in a range of from 1 to 50% by weight.

10. (Previously Presented) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1, wherein the feed additive composition is made by a granulated injection melt liquid injected into air for granulation, the injection melt liquid being a melt blending liquid constituting the coating composition in which the biologically active substance is dispersed and/or dissolved.

11. (Original) The feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 10, wherein the feed additive composition for ruminants obtained by granulation through injection is in a spherical form.

12. (Previously Presented) Feed containing the feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of fabricating a feed additive composition for ruminants, comprising the steps of:

preparing a melt liquid constituting a protective material, adjusted at from 50 to 90°C., the melt liquid containing:

at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a hardened animal fat, a hardened vegetable oil, and a wax group;

lecithin; and

a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof having 12 to 22 carbon atoms, individually or in a mixture of two or more;

dispersing and/or dissolving a biologically active substance in the melt liquid to produce an injection melt liquid; and

granulating through injecting the injection melt liquid into air at liquid temperature of from 50 to 90°C.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of fabricating a feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 13, wherein a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic monocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof having 12 to 22 carbon atoms is a stearic acid.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of fabricating a feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 13, wherein the feed additive composition contains at least a taurine and/or a betaine, to constitute a biologically active substance.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of fabricating a feed additive composition for ruminants as recited in claim 13, wherein the feed additive composition is further blended with at least one selected from the group consisting of a propionic acid or a salt thereof, a sorbic acid or a salt thereof, a benzoic acid or a salt thereof, a dehydroacetic acid or a salt thereof, paraoxybenzoic esters, an imazalil, a thiabendazole, an orthophenyl phenol, an orthophenyl phenol sodium, and a diphenyl, to constitute a preservative.